

a week, until about the latter part of December, 1814, when a melancholy event transpired. The contrator's meat stores were low, and he requested me to spare him two of my interpreters to go about fifteen or twenty miles to a Sioux camp for venison. They procured more meat than the two could carry, when an Indian volunteered to transport the surplus. One of the interpreters was a Canadian, the other a half-breed. The latter said to his comrade: "We must beware of this fellow, for he is a very treacherous Indian." The Canadian replied, while putting a second ball in his gun: "If he makes any fuss, he'll get these two balls to keep him quiet." They started with their loads, having but the one gun, which was carefully carried by its owner, the Canadian.

Night came on, and they encamped about eight miles from the fort. All this time the suspected Indian had been very good in his behavior; and in preparing their bed, he quite won their confidence, carefully drying their socks and moccasins, and carrying straw for their bed. The two interpreters lay down under the same covering, with the gun at their heads, leaning against a tree. They were soon sound asleep. Not so the deceitful Indian; for so soon as he found them unconscious, he quietly took their gun, and shot them both. The Canadian, who was next to him, was instantly killed; and one of the balls, passing through him, entered the half-breed just above the navel. Not feeling his wound, he jumped up; but the murderer and gun were gone. Finding his companion dead, and that he himself was wounded, he covered up the corpse, and started for the fort, which he reached about eight o'clock in the morning, quite faint from the loss of blood.

Immediately after the arrival of the wounded man, I dispatched a party of volunteers for the murderer; but he had fled. Failing to find the guilty outlaw, they apprehended the chief of the village [Le Corbeau François], who was an uncle of the escaped culprit, brought him to Prairie du Chien, and he was locked up in the Black Hole of the fort. The next day, on being informed that if the murderer was not immediately produced, he would be shot instead, he sent off a message to his band, explaining to his people the alternative. Search was made, and the guilty fellow found in another